

In his response to the amendments/arguments in the previous response, the Examiner stated that applicant's arguments that Hashiguchi et al. does not teach or suggest forming can ends from the instant alloy has not been found persuasive because substantially similar 5xxx series alloys are used for packaging food and beverages. Attached is a Declaration from one of the inventors stating why the Examiner's opinion in this connection is incorrect.

Basically, until the present invention was made, all can ends were made from alloy AA 5182 because other alloys of the 5xxx series did not have the necessary physical characteristics for the subsequent forming operations. This is explained in the introduction of the present application on page 1, lines 19 to 29.

The contribution made by the inventors was the unexpected finding that alloys with higher levels of Fe and Si could be made into can ends having the required physical properties, provided the ratio of Fe to Si was strictly controlled. This made it possible to use a broader range of aluminum scrap to form the can ends.

The claims currently on file relate to a can end made from a specifically-defined alloy. This invention is not disclosed in the prior art and is unobvious. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of the application is requested.

Respectfully,

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I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited this date with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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